

# UNAPPROVED PARTS NOTIFICATION



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

SUSPECTED UNAPPROVED PARTS PROGRAM OFFICE, AVS-20  
13873 PARK CENTER ROAD, SUITE 165  
HERNDON, VA 20171

*UPNs are posted on the Internet at  
<http://www.faa.gov/aircraft/safety/programs/sups/upn/>*

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Mailed by: FAA, AIR-140, P.O. Box 26460, Oklahoma City, OK 73125

## **AFFECTED AIRCRAFT**

All aircraft.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this notification is to advise all aircraft owners, operators, maintenance organizations, manufacturers, and parts suppliers and distributors regarding raw metal sold with altered material certification.

## **BACKGROUND**

Information received during a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) suspected unapproved parts investigation revealed that M&M International Aerospace Metals, Inc. (M&M), located at 1382 West McNab Road, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309, may have knowingly sold raw metal that was offered as meeting the applicable Mil Spec but did not. M&M sold the raw metal to various distributors, type certificate holders, production approval holders, experimental aircraft distributors, as well as a variety of military and commercial applications.

Evidence indicates that M&M may have deliberately altered material certifications in order to satisfy customer requirements when they knew that the material did not meet the full requirements. The following changes were found:

- Specification numbers were added.
- Quantities were changed.
- Heat-treat certifications were altered.
- Chemical analysis requirements were added.
- Hardness test results were changed.
- Names of required mills were changed to match purchase order requirements.

The Offices of the Inspector General for the Department of Transportation, Department of Defense, Department of Energy (DOE), National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the FAA conducted an investigation. DOE and FAA performed tests on the materials and examined purchase orders; these tests revealed nonconformance with the purchase orders.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Regulations require that type-certificated products conform to their type design. Aircraft owners, operators, maintenance organizations, manufacturers, and parts suppliers and distributors should inspect their records for raw metal purchased from M&M and examine those records for alterations. If material certifications are suspected of being altered, it is recommended that the original certificate supplier be contacted for a copy of the original certification, or independent tests be run for the original purchase order requirements. If the material is determined to be nonconforming, the stock -- or parts made from the stock -- should undergo an engineering analysis that is based on the material's location or use in its proposed application.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

Further information concerning this investigation and guidance regarding the above-referenced raw material can be obtained from the FAA Manufacturing Inspection District Office (MIDO) given below. The FAA would appreciate any information concerning the discovery of this material from any source, the means used to identify the source, any action allowing the material to remain in service, and any action taken to remove the material from service.

This notice originated from the FAA Orlando MIDO, 5950 Hazeltine National Drive, Suite 405, Orlando, FL 32822, telephone (407) 855-9050, fax (407) 438-1900; and was published through the FAA Suspected Unapproved Parts Program Office, AVS-20, telephone (703) 668-3720, fax (703) 481-3002.